

# SOUTH SOUND – CHAMBERS CREEK WINTER CHUM

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## STOCK STATUS

1992 STATUS

**Healthy**

2002 STATUS

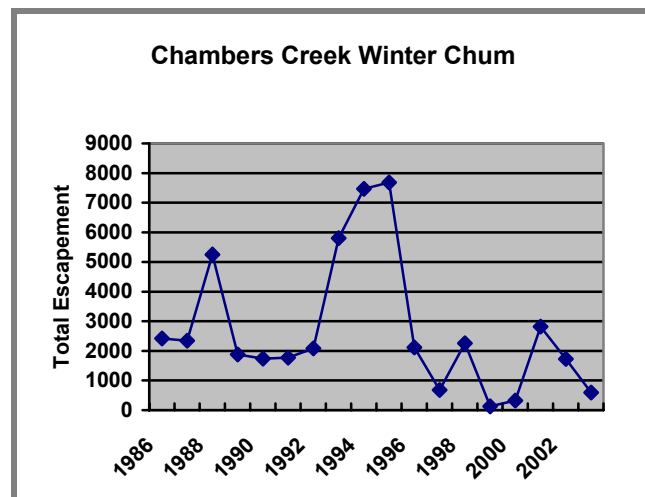
**Healthy**

## STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK

STATUS: Very Good

YEAR	TOTAL ESCAPEMENT
1986	2,420
1987	2,348
1988	5,248
1989	1,878
1990	1,744
1991	1,767
1992	2,089
1993	5,802
1994	7,471
1995	7,679
1996	2,122
1997	677
1998	2,260
1999	130
2000	323
2001	2,821
2002	1,725
2003	589



Data are total escapement based on trap counts at the mouth of Chambers Creek.

Stock status is rated **Healthy** in 2002. This winter chum stock experienced strong escapements from 1980 through 1996, primarily because of a hatchery supplementation program. The 1997 and 2000 escapements of Chambers Creek winter chum were very low, 677 and 380 spawners respectively, most likely because of the cessation of hatchery releases. This decline was considered as possible evidence of a change to depressed status based on the short-term severe decline stock rating criteria. However, examination of past escapement demonstrates two previous periods with similar levels of escapement on two consecutive years (1969-1970 and 1978-1979). Based on the prior low years, the 1999-2000 escapements likely represent the bottom of the normal low end of the range for this stock.

## STOCK DEFINITION

Chambers Creek winter chum were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution, spawning timing, and genetic composition.

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SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Most spawning takes place in Chambers Creek and tributaries such as Leach and Flett creeks.

SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning generally occurs from January through February.

GENETIC ANALYSIS: Allozyme analysis has shown Chambers Creek winter chum to be genetically different from all other Washington chum stocks examined. They are most similar to the Nisqually winter chum stock (Phelps et al. 1995).

## STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **native** stock with **wild** production.